AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1- 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for updating a shared file in a computer network including a group of communicating computing devices in a peer-to-peer network, the method comprising

performing, at a first computing device, a file system operation on a shared file associated with a first file icon corresponding to the shared file displayed in a first shared space display area to generate an updated shared file;

creating, at the first computing device, metadata associated with the updated shared file;

directly propagating, by the first computing device to a second computing device that has permission, the metadata associated with the updated shared file;

obtaining, by the second computing device, the metadata associated with the updated shared file;

determining, by the second computing device, whether the updated shared file should be replicated on the second computing device, the determining based on a file replication setting of the second computing device, the file replication setting selected by a user of the second computing device, comprising:

[[if]] determining, by the second computing device, that the file replication setting indicates an on-demand basis[[,]] and piecemeal downloading, by the second computing device from multiple computing devices of the group, ~~portions of~~ the updated shared file ~~upon receiving a user-demanded file replication indication,;~~ and

[[if]] determining, by the second computing device, that the file replication setting indicates automatic replication[[,]] and automatically piecemeal downloading, by the second computing device from the multiple computing devices of the group, ~~portions of~~ the updated shared file,

wherein the multiple computing devices of the group from which the ~~portions of the~~ updated shared file ~~are automatically~~ is piecemeal downloaded are selected based on a closeness of each multiple computing device to the second computing device, the closeness based on of at least one of: IP address or least routing time;

displaying a second file icon corresponding to the shared file in a second shared space display area of the second computing device indicating that the shared file has been updated; and

displaying, by the second computing device, a third file icon corresponding to the shared file in the second shared space display area indicating that the shared file has not been updated when the updated shared file should not be replicated on the second computing device, wherein the third file icon provides an indication that an update to the shared file exists in the peer-to-peer network.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising providing a user interface at the second computing device wherein:

the user interface includes the file replication setting, and

via the user interface, the user is enabled to select the file replication setting of the second computing device.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, ~~wherein providing a~~ the user interface at the second computing device ~~comprises providing the user interface at the second computing device, wherein: the user interface further includes~~ further comprising a display contributor name with files setting, and via the display contributor name with files setting, the user is enabled to select whether or not a contributor name corresponding to the updated shared file is displayed with a filename of the updated shared file.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, ~~wherein providing a~~ the user interface at the second computing device ~~comprises providing the user interface at the second computing device wherein: the user interface further includes a members contribution~~ further comprising a member contributions setting, and via the ~~members contribution~~ member contributions setting, the user is enabled to select whether or not members of the group have permission to contribute any shared content to the group.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, ~~wherein providing a~~ the user interface at the second computing device ~~comprises providing the user interface at the second~~

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~~computing device, wherein: the user interface further includes~~ further comprising a new content setting, and via the new content setting, the user is enabled to select a time interval within which a given content is defined as being new.